



PRESS RELEASE
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For Immediate Release

September 15, 2006

**LAKELAND DOCTOR FOUND GUILTY OF HEALTH CARE FRAUD,
FALSE CLAIMS AND OBSTRUCTION OF JUSTICE**

Tampa, FL - Late Wednesday a federal jury found Dr. Marsha Lynn Hoffman-Vaile, age 55, guilty of 44 counts of health care fraud, 44 counts of making false claims, and one count of obstruction of justice. The convictions on each of the health care fraud counts respectively carry a maximum sentence of ten years' imprisonment, a fine of \$250,000, and a term of supervised release of three years. The convictions on each of the false claim counts respectively carry a maximum sentence of five years' imprisonment, a fine of \$250,000, and a term of supervised release of three years. The obstruction of justice conviction is punishable up to a maximum sentence of 20 years, a fine of \$250,00, and a term of supervised release of three years. Dr. Hoffman-Vaile is scheduled to be sentenced on December 15, 2006 at 9:30 a.m., before the Honorable Susan C. Bucklew.

According to court documents and evidence presented at trial, Dr. Marsha Lynn Hoffman-Vaile, who practiced dermatology in Lakeland, Florida, defrauded the

government for millions of dollars by falsely exaggerating the types of surgical procedures she performed in order to obtain reimbursement from the Medicare Trust Fund.

The investigation of Dr. Marsha Hoffman-Vaile's fraudulent activities was conducted by the Department of Health and Human Services, Office of Inspector General, and the case was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorneys Rachelle DesVaux Bedke and Anthony Porcelli.